United Nations A/67/111

General Assembly

Distr.: General
June 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Item 121 (u) of the preliminary list*
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Letter dated 25 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the "Declaration of the Heads of State of the member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on building a region of lasting peace and common prosperity", which was signed by the Presidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan at the meeting of the Council of the Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held in Beijing on 7 June 2012 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 121 (u) of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) Talaibek **Kydyrov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic

* A/67/50.

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Annex to the letter dated 25 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Declaration by the Heads of States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on building a region of lasting peace and common prosperity

The Heads of States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter "SCO" or "the Organization") held a meeting of the Council of Heads of State in Beijing from 6 to 7 June 2012.

The Heads of State note that the system of international relations has been undergoing complex changes in the twenty-first century, with the development of a multipolar world, stronger regional cooperation, globalization and growing interdependence among States, and a larger role for information technology.

It is imperative for the international community to meet global challenges through effective and concerted action. The global economic situation remains complex and is characterized by instability and uncertainty. The risk of another large-scale economic and financial crisis remains and the problems of terrorism, narcotics trafficking, transnational crime, development imbalance, food shortages, climate change and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as well as the threat of local and regional conflicts persist.

Reflecting the common aspirations of the people of its member States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has continued to work effectively to promote peace, cooperation and development. By upholding in practice the principles of the "Shanghai spirit" — mutual trust, mutual advantage, equality, joint consultations, respect for cultural diversity and the desire for joint development — it has helped to develop an effective model of friendly and cooperative relations among States.

Through the unified efforts of its member States, the Organization has become a guarantor of peace and sustainable development, ensuring security, stability and development in the region, firmly countering terrorism, separatism, extremism, narcotics trafficking and transnational organized crime, and strengthening regional cooperation by fostering relations based on good-neighbourliness and trust.

The member States engage in ongoing efforts to enhance mutual trust in military activities in border areas and take the necessary measures to avoid border disputes and safeguard peace, tranquillity and stability.

The member States will further strengthen cooperation within the SCO framework in order to take it to the next level and transform the region into one of lasting peace, friendship, prosperity and harmony.

In that connection, the heads of State declare the following:

I

The member States call on the international community to engage in peaceful co-existence and dialogue between civilizations, seek understanding, promote shared sustainable development and respect for national traditions and cultural values, and strengthen relations between States on the basis of universally recognized norms and principles of international law.

The member States will further develop and deepen their relations in strict compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Treaty on Good-Neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation among SCO member States and the other international instruments to which they have acceded.

The relations among member States are based on mutual respect for State sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, independent choice of social system and development path, and non-interference in one another's internal affairs. Member States support one another in maintaining domestic stability and promoting economic growth.

No member State shall join any alliance or group of countries opposed to other member States and every effort shall be made to address issues that arise between member States or between members and other countries through political and diplomatic means consistent with international law.

II

The member States share the view that it is necessary to promote a new approach to security in international relations based on mutual trust, mutual advantage, equality and cooperation and to make the world an indivisible security space that takes into account the interests of all States without exception.

The unilateral and unlimited development of ballistic missile defence by one State or a group of States could damage international security and strategic stability. The related issues must be resolved by all the countries concerned through political and diplomatic efforts. The member States firmly believe that one country cannot pursue its own security at the expense of others' security.

The member States advocate building a world free of nuclear weapons and strictly comply with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. SCO calls upon all nuclear-weapon States to sign the relevant protocols to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia and take steps towards its actual establishment.

The member States are in favour of ensuring the security of outer space activities and the use of outer space for peaceful purposes and preventing the placement of weapons in outer space. They support the development of a draft treaty prohibiting the placement of weapons in outer space and the threat or use of force against assets in outer space and the development and international implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures on outer space activities.

The member States will work to build a peaceful, secure, fair and open information space based on the principles of respect for State sovereignty and

non-interference in the internal affairs of others. They will oppose the use of information and communications technology for the purpose of undermining the political, economic and social security of member States and will prevent the use of the Internet to propagate terrorist, extremist or separatist ideologies.

III

The member States are of the view that regional issues should be addressed through consultations among the countries of the region and international organizations. The specific forms and mechanisms for cooperation to maintain regional security and stability should be determined by the countries of that region.

In the event of a situation that threatens the peace, stability and security of a member State of the SCO or the entire region, the member States shall, in accordance with the relevant documents of the Organization, take political and diplomatic measures to deal with the situation in a timely and appropriate manner.

The member States will continue to step up bilateral and multilateral cooperation to jointly combat terrorism, separatism and extremism, illicit trafficking in drugs and weapons and other transnational criminal activities, address illegal migration and meet new threats and challenges in other security fields.

The member States support the efforts to make Afghanistan an independent, neutral, peaceful, prosperous country free of terrorism and drug-related crime. They are of the view that the national reconciliation process in Afghanistan should be Afghan-led and Afghan-owned. The member States support the central role of the United Nations in coordinating international efforts on the issue of Afghanistan and will assist the Afghan people with their national reconstruction. In that connection, the member States decide to grant Afghanistan observer status in SCO.

The member States express deep concern over the situation in the Middle East and North Africa and sincerely hope to see peace, stability, prosperity and progress in the region. They call on the international community to respect the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, respect the independent choice of the countries and peoples of the region, and work to ease regional tensions. The SCO member States are opposed to armed intervention in the affairs of the region, forced regime change and unilateral sanctions.

The SCO member States underline that all forms of violence in the Syrian Arab Republic, whatever their source, must cease. They support broad-based domestic dialogue that respects the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic. They welcome the political mediation efforts approved by the United Nations Security Council to resolve the crisis and believe that a peaceful solution to the Syrian issue through political dialogue serves the common interests of the Syrian people and the international community.

The member States express deep concern over the developments surrounding the Islamic Republic of Iran, an SCO observer. They consider that any attempt to resolve the Iranian issue by force is unacceptable and will have unpredictable consequences that will threaten the stability and security of the region and the entire world. They call on all parties to exercise maximum restraint and avoid statements or actions which might lead to further confrontation.

The member States are of the view that all countries should abide by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental norms of international law. They are in favour of strict implementation of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. They support the launching of sustained dialogue between the "E3 + 3" group of countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran with the aim of finding a political and diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and talks among the relevant parties. The member States expect the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a responsible member of the international community, to play an important role in maintaining peace and prosperity.

IV

The member States, governed by national priorities for social and economic development, intend to engage in consistent and mutually supportive efforts to enhance their economic potential through modernized and innovative growth and intensify experience sharing and business contacts.

The member States maintain that economic globalization should be conducive to balanced, mutually advantageous, fair, effective and non-discriminatory trade relations that benefit all countries.

The member States will further contribute to the international community's collective efforts to mitigate the impact of the global economic and financial crisis and achieve the sustainable growth of the world economy.

The member States will deepen and improve mutually beneficial regional economic cooperation, promote an enabling environment for trade and investment, and undertake large-scale joint investment projects, including by tapping into the potential of observer States and dialogue partners.

The member States agree on the need to promote further cooperation in border areas and neighbouring regions in order to increase contacts with a view to sharing the benefits of economic development.

The member States will make efforts to safeguard energy security in the SCO region.

The member States attach great importance to developing transportation infrastructure that connects Asia with Europe, building appropriate international transport corridors and improving the efficiency of linkages between different modes of transport. They will continue to strengthen cooperation to accomplish these tasks.

In accordance with their national legislation and relevant international obligations, the member States shall protect the social and economic rights and interests of citizens of other member States residing within their borders.

V

The successful development of the SCO region requires world peace, security and stability, and unremitting efforts to establish an equitable and democratic international order.

The United Nations should play a leading role in upholding international peace and security, promoting common constructive development and enhancing mutually beneficial international cooperation. The SCO member States reaffirm their support for United Nations reform aimed at improving its efficiency and strengthening its capacity for timely and effective response to challenges and threats.

The relevant States should continue consultations to seek a comprehensive solution to the issue of United Nations Security Council reform that takes into account various interests and concerns and enables the broadest possible consensus. In order to maintain unity among United Nations Member States, artificial time limits should not be set for the negotiation process and drafts should not be submitted prematurely for discussion, including those that take a piecemeal approach to the negotiation process and do not currently have the support of the overwhelming majority of Member States.

The member States intend to devote attention to further developing friendly ties and productive cooperation with SCO observer States and dialogue partners and with international and regional organizations that have signed the relevant documents with SCO. They will continue to engage in dialogue with other organizations and entities that share the fundamental aims and principles of SCO.

The member States note with satisfaction the international community's increasing interest in establishing ties with SCO and welcome the participation of the Republic of Turkey in cooperation within the SCO framework as a dialogue partner.

VI

The member States emphasize that SCO, guided by the "Shanghai spirit" and as an important entity and constructive force in international relations, has become a model of inter-State and regional cooperation in the twenty-first century.

The member States, building on the friendship, partnership and harmony in the region, will continue to strengthen peace, justice and democracy, lay the foundations for polycentrity throughout the world and promote progress and prosperity for all States and for humankind as a whole.

(*Signed*) Nursultan A. **Nazarbayev**
President
Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*) **Hu** Jintao
President
People's Republic of China

(*Signed*) Almazbek S. **Atambayev**
President
Kyrgyz Republic

(*Signed*) Vladimir V. **Putin**
President
Russian Federation

(*Signed*) Emomali **Rahmon**
President
Republic of Tajikistan

(*Signed*) Islam A. **Karimov**
President
Republic of Uzbekistan

Beijing, 7 June 2012